

## Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 587

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7386

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, PINT, CI (GONZALEZ, RAFAEL)

SUBJ: CASE OF RAFAEL GONZALEZ: FONMINISTER REPEATS GOC REFUSAL  
TO ALLOW DEPARTURE

REF: STATE 184455

1. SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR'S PRESENTATION  
AS INSTRUCTED IN REFTEL, FONMIN CARVAJAL REPEATED FLATLY  
THE GOC DECISION NOT TO ALLOW RAFAEL GONZALEZ TO LEAVE  
CHILE. HE GAVE A FEW ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON GONZALEZ,  
CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS GOC STATEMENTS ON HIM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AMBASSADOR JULY 28 CALLED ON FONMINISTER CARVAJAL  
TO MAKE FURTHER DEMARCHE REQUESTING THE GOC TO ALLOW  
RAFAEL GONZALEZ TO LEAVE CHILE FOR THE US. THE ARGUMENTS  
SUGGESTED IN THE REFTEL WERE MADE REPEATEDLY IN VARIOUS VERSIONS,  
BUT TO NO EVIDENT EFFECT.

3. CARVAJAL WAS WELL PREPARED. HE REPLIED THAT HE  
DID NOT THINK GONZALEZ' TESTIMONY IN THE US COULD  
POSSIBLY CLARIFY THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE DEATH  
OF US CITIZEN CHARLES HORMAN. HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE  
HAD MET GONZALEZ HIMSELF ON SEPTEMBER 12, 1973 (THE  
DAY AFTER THE COUP, AND A DAY BEFORE CARVAJAL WAS NAMED  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE). GONZALEZ HAD A LONG LIST OF  
COMMUNISTS AND TERRORISTS HE THOUGH SHOULD BE DETAINED, AND  
HAD FOLLOWED UP BY OFFERING HIS HELP TO THE INTELLIGENCE  
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SERVICES. HE WAS NEVER AN AIR FORCE OFFICER. HE DISPLAYED SUCH

ABERRANT TENDENCIES (HIS HOMOSEXUAL FIXATION, AND ANOTHER FIXATION AGAINST JEWS) THAT HE WAS TURNED DOWN. THE AIR FORCE LATER, HOWEVER, TOOK HIM ON AS AN INFORMER WITHOUT OFFICIAL OR COMMISSIONED STATUS. THE AIR FORCE FIRED HIM WHEN IT GOT TO KNOW HIM. HE WAS NOT "PERSECUTED" BUT NEVERTHELESS TOOK REFUGE IN THE ITALIAN EMBASSY.

4. CARVAJAL CONTINUED THAT, BASED ON GONZALEZ' PAST PERFORMANCE, HE COULD BE EXPECTED TO INVENT STORIES IF EXPOSED TO QUESTIONING IN THE US. THE HORMAN CASE WAS TYPICAL: CARVAJAL SAID HE HAD KNOWN GENERAL LUTZ WELL AS A MAN OF CAREFUL CORRECTNESS WHO WOULD NEVER HAVE MADE THE REMARKS GONZALEZ ASCRIBED TO HIM. CARVAJAL KNEW COLONEL BARRIA LESS WELL, BUT BARRIA HAD TOLD HIM PERSONALLY THAT HE HAD NEVER PARTICIPATED IN THE KIND OF MEETING DESCRIBED BY GONZALEZ. THE GOC MUST BE REALISTIC. GONZALEZ WOULD CONTINUE INVENTING AND SPREADING LIES IN THE US, AND THE TRUTH WOULD NEVER CATCH UP.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S REITERATED ARGUMENTS CARVAJAL SAID TWICE FLATLY THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY OF GONZALEZ LEAVING CHILE. HE HAD HAD NO REASON TO ENTER THE ITALIAN EMBASSY, AND THERE WAS "NO WAY" OF CONVINCING THE GOC TO RELEASE HIM. THE AMBASSADOR SAID IN CLOSING THE SUBJECT THAT THERE WOULD BE NEGATIVE REACTIONS IN THE U.S. IF THE GOC POSITION DID NOT CHANGE. HE HOPED THE GOC WOULD RECONSIDER THE CASE IN LIGHT OF THE POINTS MADE IN HIS DEMARCHE.

6. CARVAJAL VOLUNTEERED THAT MRS. GONZALEZ AND HER SON COULD LEAVE CHILE IF THEY WISHED. THE GOC, HOWEVER, DID NOT WANT TO SEPARATE THE FAMILY. IT WAS THEREFORE LOOKING FOR A JOB FOR MRS. GONZALEZ, SO THAT SHE AND HER SON COULD LEAD A NORMAL LIFE IN CHILE. CARVAJAL REPEATED THAT THERE WAS NO PROHIBITION AGAINST THEM GOING TO THE US.

7. COMMENT: CARVAJAL ADDED A PERSONAL ELEMENT TO THE GONZALEZ CASE BUT NOTHING NEW OF SIGNIFICANCE. HE WAS UNUSUALLY EMPATHIC IN HIS NEGATIVE RESPONSES. THE SIGNAL CAME ACROSS LOUD AND CLEAR: WE SHOULD NOT EXPECT GONZALEZ TO BE RELEASED.

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8. FOR THE PRESENT, I THINK IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO REVERT TO THIS ISSUE HERE. I HAVE MADE THREE TRIES AT TOP FONOFF LEVELS, AND ASST. SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN HAS SPOKEN IN STRONG TERMS TO AMBASSADOR TRUCCO IN WASHINGTON. THE CHILEANS FULLY UNDERSTAND OUR POSITION. THEY COULD NOT BE MORE CONCLUSIVE IN THEIR REACTION.  
POPPER

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